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NGC-147 / 000316-199

NOV 09 2006

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claim 2 is amended, claims 3-4 are canceled, and claims 26-27 are added. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicant to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 6, lines 1-14), figures (e.g., FIG. 1-3), and claims (e.g., original claims 3-4) and thus, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 and 5-27 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-7, 14-17, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Watson (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,925). Claims 8-13, 18-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watson in view of Wyse (U.S. Patent No. 5,932,803). This rejection is respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action's citations to the applied references, with or without modification or combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the modification or combination of the Office Action's citations to the applied references is proper, do not teach or suggest the one or more pickoff sensors that sense the value of the parameter from the substantially zero net dampening torque location of the pendulous sensor component, as recited in applicant's independent claim 1.

For explanatory purposes, applicant discusses herein one or more differences between the claimed invention and the Office Action's citations to Watson and Wyse. This discussion,

however, is in no way meant to acquiesce in any characterization that one or more parts of the Office Action's citations to Watson or Wyse correspond to the claimed invention.

Watson (FIG. 22; column 17, lines 37-46) discloses:

In order to ensure that pick-offs 164 sense a substantially net differential current output of zero when the gyroscope is rotationally stationary, a balancing conductor 166 maybe provided upon the surface of the resonating element 150. This balancing conductor 166 is electrically connected to the pick-off 164 and is carefully sized and located upon the resonating element 150 so as to cancel net differential voltage signals sensed by the pick-offs 164 when the resonating element 150 is oscillating in a rotationally stationary state.

Watson discloses the balancing conductor is carefully located upon the resonating element to cancel the net differential voltage signals. Applicant respectfully submits that the differential voltage signal and corresponding current output, which are electrical characteristics, are not equivalent to a dampening torque (e.g., a force characteristic) on the prismatic resonating element. Watson also fails to disclose any method for "carefully" sizing and locating the balancing conductor. In addition, Watson discloses that the balancing conductor is carefully located, but fails to disclose that the pick-off is carefully located. Applicant also notes that Watson fails to disclose a pendulous sensor component since the prismatic resonating element 150 (FIGS. 20-22) is suspended from a pair of support members (column 17, lines 5-7).

Accordingly, the Office Action's citation to Watson fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicant's independent claim 1.

Wyse discloses (column 6, lines 48-52):

Similarly, a combined tuning and pickoff electrode 96, 98 is likewise formed and fixed to the inwardly-facing surfaces of the upper and lower covers 72, 74 and communicates with external electronics by means of feedthroughs 100, 102 respectively.

Wyse discloses the pickoff electrode but fails to disclose that the pickoff electrode senses a value of a parameter from a substantially zero net dampening torque location of a pendulous sensor component.

Accordingly, the Office Action's citation to Wyse fails to satisfy at least one of the limitations recited in applicant's independent claim 1.

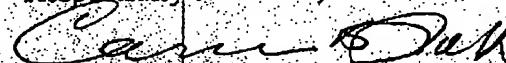
For all the reasons presented above with reference to claim 1, claims 1, 14, and 15 are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1, 14, and 15, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

For example, regarding dependent claim 6, Watson discloses that the pickoff senses a voltage differential from sensors 158" (column 17, lines 17-23). Watson fails to disclose pickoff sensors that sense a change in a capacitance between the prismatic resonating element and the base or support members.

Withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 9, 2006

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